PDS subsidy for the poor

7646. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PDS subsidy on tax on the poor" published in Economic Times dated January 19, 1995;

(b) if so the facts thereof ;and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI *AJIT SINGH*): *(a) Yes, Sir.*

(b) and (c) The policy of extending Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to the farmers and the maintenance of buffer stocks, while ensuring remunerative prices the farmers, has helped, through the years, in maintaining adequate suupply of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable prices. The MPSs ensure to the farmers an adequate return on their cost of production and also enthuse the farmers to increase production of foodgrains which is necessary for providing food security to the people of the country.

The upward revision of Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice flows from the increases made in the MSP/Procurement price of wheat and paddy by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Factors such as availability of foodgrains in the open market, ability of consumers to pay, the likely impact of issue prices in the general economy, the need to safeguard the interest of poor and the ability of the subsidy budget to absorb increased cost also determine the CIP. CIPs are fixed deliberately below the economic cost in order to keep them within the reach of the vulnerable sections of the population and a huge subsidy is borne by the Government on this account.

The Public Distribution System functioning through a network of fair price/ration shops aims at supplementing the supply of foodgrains to the consumers particularly the vulnerable sections of the population at reasonable prices. The presence of the PDS has also a sobering effect on the open market prices of foodgrains.

गेहूं और चावल पर राजसहायता

7647. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम में लगातार बढ़ते जा रहे व्ययों के कारण सरकार को वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान गेहूं व चावल पर राजकीय आर्थिक सहायता की राशि क्रमशः 171.20 रुपये व 137.90 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल देनी पड़ी है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम के खर्चों में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इन बढ़ते खर्चों की प्राथमिकता की जांच कभी कराई है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या सरकार इस संबंध में अब कोई जांच कराएगी ; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह) : (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान, भारतीय खाद्य निगम को गेहूं के लिए 159.08 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल और चावल के लिए 114.67 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की दर से उपभोक्ता राज सहायता अनन्तिम रूप से अदा की गई थी ।